

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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R 221053Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9630

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 1232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UV, ML

SUBJECT: MALI/UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

REF: OUAGA 1194

1. DURING CALL I MADE ON FOREIGN MINISTER ZERBO MAY 21, HE CONFIRMED INFO GIVEN TO US BY SANDWIDI AS REPORTED REFTEL REGARDING RESULTS OF SURVEY CARRIED OUT UNDER LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION'S AUSPICES TO DETERMINE EXACT LOCATION OF MALI/UPPER VOLTA BORDER NORTH OF BELI RIVER.

2. ZERBO SAID THAT WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMISSION MET AT KABIA (WHICH MALI CLAIMS TO BE NORTHEASTERN LIMIT OF BORDER BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLYA), THEY COULD FIND NO HILL WORTHY OF THE NAME WHICH COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR MOUNT N'GOUMA AS DESCRIBED IN FRENCH COLNIAL DOCUMENTS. MOVING NORTH SOME 8 KILOMETERS, THEY FOUND NOT ONLY MOUNT N'GOUMA BUT ALSO OLD FRENCH BOUNDARY MARKERS.

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ALL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMISSION AGREED THAT THIS

POINT MARKED THE BORDER BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA AND ALSO BETWEEN MALI AND NIGER. ASKED TO CONCUR IN THESE FINDINGS, THE MALIAN OBSERVER FIRST CLAIMED ILLNESS BUT EVENTUALLY HAD TO ADMIT THAT THE EVIDENCE WAS IMPRESSIVE. ZERBO COMMENTED THAT MALIAN OBSERVER WILL PROBABLY BE GIVEN A HARD TIME WHEN HE GETS BACK TO BAMAKO.

3. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION REGARDING FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION, ZERBO SAID THAT LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE WILL NOW EXAMINE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY. THERE ISLL THEN BE A MEETING OF CHIEFS OF STATE OF MALI, UPPER VOLTA, SENEGAL, GUINEA, NIGER AND TOGO WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY SETTLE THE BOUNDARY DISPUTE ONCE AND FOR ALL. WITH REGARD TO THE EXACT TIMING OF THIS SUMMIT MEETING, ZERBO REMARKED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET SIX CHIEFS OF STATE TO AGREE ON A DATE ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE WERE OTHER MEETINGS WHICH SOME OF THEM HAD TO ATTEND. HE GUESSED THAT THE LOME SUMMIT MEETING WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE END OF JUNE OR POSSIBLY THE BEGINNING OF JULY.

4. IN CONCLUDING THIS PART OF OUR CONVERSATION, ZERBO REMARKED THAT GOUV WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND FACT THAT LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION WAS FINALLY GETTING SOME POSITIVE RESULTS. HE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THERE WAS NOW A MUCH BETTER CHANCE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE.
GRAHAM

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